

## ELECTIONS. PRIMARIES. INITIATIVE CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT AND STATUTE.

### ARGUMENT in Favor of Proposition 62

THE VOTER CHOICE PRIMARY GIVES *YOU* THE POWER—NOT THE PARTY BOSSES AND POLITICIANS  
Proposition 62, The Voter Choice Primary Initiative, allows every voter—including *independent voters*—to vote for the best candidate for office, regardless of party, in primary elections.

The Voter Choice Primary is similar to the method Californians have used for the past century to elect mayors, city council members, county supervisors, and district attorneys.

Proposition 62 puts power—and choice—back in *your* hands and takes it away from the party bosses and political insiders who've stacked the system in their favor—at our expense.

THE VOTER CHOICE PRIMARY ACT IS BADLY NEEDED REFORM

It will:

- open up California's elections process
- expand voter choices
- increase voter participation
- create more competition in elections
- make more accountable our state's elected officials, so they are responsive to *all* voters—not just the special interests and those at the ideological extremes

CALIFORNIA VOTERS SUPPORT PRIMARY ELECTION REFORM

California voters passed primary election reform in 1996 with almost 60% of the vote over the opposition of the party bosses. The 1998 and 2000 elections were run under these reforms and voter participation increased. But the party bosses used the courts to block these reforms they couldn't defeat at the ballot box. Proposition 62 is written in a manner that addresses the concerns of the courts and restores the will of the people of California.

RESTORE COMPETITION—OPEN UP THE CURRENT PRIMARY SYSTEM THAT'S STACKED AGAINST THE VOTERS

Politicians of both major parties cut a backroom deal to protect incumbents. They created mainly "safe" legislative districts where party registration heavily favors one party or the other. The winner of the majority party's primary election is virtually guaranteed victory in the almost meaningless general election. Meanwhile, voters in other political parties have no real voice in the selection of their representatives in Sacramento and Washington.

The politicians and party bosses like the current system because they can control it.

That's why we're stuck with an unpopular State Legislature that's out of touch with the will of California voters.

HOW WOULD IT WORK?

In primary elections, every voter would receive a ballot listing the name of all candidates and in most cases their party registration. Voters, including independents, can pick the candidate of their choice for each office, regardless of the candidate's party registration. The top two vote-getters, regardless of party, would face each other in the November general election. (Presidential nominating and party central committee elections would be unaffected by the Voter Choice Primary.)

PROPOSITION 62 IS OPPOSED BY THE PARTY BOSSES

The party bosses are running a cynical scare campaign to hang on to their power by confusing voters about the Voter Choice Primary. Don't let them get away with it.

When it comes to elections, you—the voter—should be the boss.

STEVE WESTLY, *California State Controller*

RICHARD J. RIORDAN, *California Secretary for Education*

BECKY MORGAN, *Former State Senator*

### REBUTTAL to Argument in Favor of Proposition 62

Don't be fooled!

Prop. 62 is NOT the same as what voters passed in 1996. Under the previous blanket primary, a nominee from each political party appeared on the November ballot. Voters had REAL CHOICE!

Under Prop. 62, only TWO candidates will appear on the November ballot—and they can be FROM THE SAME POLITICAL PARTY!

Prop. 62 is so flawed that only one other state—Louisiana—uses such a system. There, it helped KKK leader David Duke make the runoff for Governor—with only 32% of the vote! Washington state recently rejected this system. So should California.

The proponents behind Prop. 62 talk about "expanding voter choices"—BUT 62 does the OPPOSITE, restricting voters to only TWO CHOICES in November and forcing smaller parties' candidates off the ballot.

They talk about "creating more competition"—BUT 62 creates LESS competition in November's election.

They talk about "increasing voter participation"—BUT don't tell you that Louisiana has one of the lowest voter turnouts because voters have such limited choice.

Here's what Prop. 62 really does:

- Eliminates voter choice in General Elections
- Boosts extremist candidates
- Suppresses voter turnout, making Legislators LESS ACCOUNTABLE
- Repeals current law prohibiting a candidate from running for more than one office at the same time

Don't be fooled! Groups as diverse as Common Cause, Howard Jarvis Taxpayers Association, and California Federation of Teachers strongly OPPOSE 62.

KRIS GREENLEE, *Vice-Chair*

*California Common Cause*

HONORABLE MIMI WALTERS, *Founding Member*

*California Women's Leadership Association*

GEORGE RUNNER, *Co-Chair*

*Citizens and Law Enforcement Against Election Fraud*